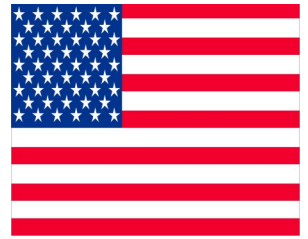




U.S. Embassy, Lusaka

CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR



Inside the U.S. Embassy by Rob Romanowski

If you have visited the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka for a consular service, then you may have wondered why our building on Ibex Hill is so large. In short, the embassy's size is a reflection of the U.S. government's long-term partnership with Zambia and our confidence that Zambia will remain a regional leader in southern Africa.

Our relationship with the Zambian people is growing on nearly all fronts (consular, commercial, etc.), and our investment in health issues, in particular, is substantial. For example, since 2004 when Zambia was selected for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.S. government has provided to Zambia nearly \$2.25 billion for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

Annually, the U.S. Embassy

manages hundreds of millions of dollars, mostly in development assistance, across a broad swathe of programs to improve economic growth, governance, and Zambian livelihoods.

To further transparency about what the embassy does, I would like to highlight a different section of the embassy team in each issue of our newsletter.

In this issue we have asked our Economic Officer to discuss the growing U.S.-Zambia trade relationship and other successes. He also talks about the recent revocation of two Statutory Instruments regarding foreign currency and investment in Zambia. If you have a question or would like to learn more about a particular section at the embassy, please let us know at

ACSLusaka@state.gov and we will cover it in future issues.

Many of you are quite familiar with aspects of our consular work and so are probably not surprised to learn that in this issue we are once again promoting voter registration. That's right, we are in an election year. On November 4, all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 in the U.S. Senate (as well as many state seats) will be up for election.

This will be an important election. To participate, we encourage you to read the Vice Consul's voting article about how to obtain your absentee ballot.

Finally you may have read that the Zambian women's under-17 soccer team quali-

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fied for the World Cup last month in Costa Rica. Although they did not advance to the quarterfinals, they left the tournament on a strong note, beating the host team in their final match two goals to zero.



With the team's permission, here is a photo at the U.S. Embassy last month with our Public Affairs Officer, Janet Deutsch. As one of only three African teams at the Cup, we are proud that these girls represented Zambia with such grit and determination.

Get to Know Your U.S. Embassy:

An Interview with Adam Ross, Economic Officer

Serving as the Economic Officer at U.S. Embassy Lusaka since 2012, Adam Ross works to strengthen economic and trade relations between the United States and Zambia. A native of Connecticut, Adam worked as an intellectual property attorney before joining the Foreign Service in 2003. Since then, he has also served in China, South Africa, and Vietnam.



Q: Hi, Adam. As the Economic Officer, what exactly do you do here in Zambia?

A: As an Economic Officer, I work in the combined Political and Economic Section of the Embassy. The primary job of the Political and Economic Section is to stay informed of important political and economic developments in Zambia so that we can best advise our Ambassador or Chargé d’Affaires, as well as our colleagues in Washington, DC, on policy questions that arise. To do so, we meet regularly with a wide range of people, including politicians, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, companies and academics.

On the economic side, we also provide commercial services to American companies seeking to expand their trade and investment relationship with Zambia.

Q: Do you work alone, or do you have a team?

A: In addition to my political colleagues, I work with several American and Zambian economic and commercial colleagues. My team includes a Commercial Officer, who focuses on helping American companies expand their trade with Zambia; a Commercial Assistant who also helps American companies, as well as helping Zambian companies seeking to participate in U.S. trade shows and purchase American exports; and a Political and Economic Assistant, who helps provide research for our regular reporting back to Washington.

Q: How are economic relations between the U.S. and Zambia ?

A: The economic relationship between the U.S. and Zambia is small but growing because of Zambia’s long record of economic growth, averaging almost six percent over the last decade. Annual trade between the U.S. and Zambia is now almost \$200 million, and the U.S. has a positive trade balance with Zambia, selling about \$100 million more to Zambia than it buys. Many American companies continue to be interested in trade and investment in Zambia, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Q: What was it like living and working in China? How was it different from Zambia?

China was our first Foreign Service post and, like all first postings, was very memorable. China has an incredibly rich cultural history that, for those of us living in Beijing, was accessible on a daily basis. I could walk to ancient parks, and the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square were a short cab ride away. The food was also amazing and more diverse than we expected, with many distinct regional cuisines. China is very different from Zambia in many ways, most clearly in its crowded cities and serious pollution. Zambia is much less crowded, and its environment is much cleaner.

Q: Are U.S. and Chinese businesses in competition in Zambia? If so, who’s winning?

A: American and Chinese businesses in Zambia largely operate in different sectors, but sometimes compete for large national infrastructure projects. In many of these cases, Chinese companies are able to provide Zambia both with the needed infrastructure services and with the related financing, sometimes through state-owned banks. This is often an advantage as American companies rarely bring project financing as part of their services.

Q: How does the U.S. Embassy promote trade between the U.S. and Zambia?

A: The Embassy promotes U.S.-Zambia trade and investment in many ways. We support and participate in the American Chamber of Commerce in Zambia, sitting on the board and cooperating on many annual events. We provide the Zambian government with technical assistance on economic regulatory issues, including through our U.S. Treasury Office of Technical Assistance. We provide U.S. companies information on doing business in Zambia and help them find local partners. We advocate for U.S. companies bidding on government tenders, and we support trade missions both to and from Zambia and the United States.

Q: Can you speak about the recent revocation of key economic Statutory Instruments Nos. 33 and 55 and what this means, especially for U.S. residents and visitors in Zambia?

A: On March 21, Minister of Finance Alexander Chikwanda announced the revocation of Statutory Instrument (SI) Number 33 (mandating use of the kwacha for domestic transactions) and SI Number 55 (monitoring foreign exchange transactions). Along with problems of fiscal management and weakening global copper prices, these SI's were perceived as undermining confidence in Zambia's economy and currency, leading to recent sharp depreciation of the kwacha. The decision to revoke the SI's has been widely praised in the business community. The revocation of the SI's will likely not have much impact on visitors, except that they may begin to see tourist prices once again quoted and payable in dollars.

Q: What are the other big economic stories Zambia right now?

A: There are many interesting economic stories in Zambia today, including: weakening of the kwacha, weakening in global copper prices, and plans to open a copper mine in Lower Zambezi National Park. I think, however, the biggest economic story is Zambia's ongoing challenge in correcting its large, recent fiscal deficit, which has strained government operations.

Q: Why should U.S. businesses be interested in Zambia?

A: U.S. businesses should be interested in Zambia because, despite recent fiscal challenges, it has continued strong economic growth, untapped extractive resources, vast agricultural potential, and a growing middle-class urban population.

Q: As for the private sector, which businesses really seem to be “booming” or leading the way in Zambia right now?

A: Strong growth in construction has been led by the government's Link Zambia 8000 road-building project. The agricultural sector is receiving a lot of attention from foreign investors.

Q: What are some areas in which Zambia can improve in order to attract more foreign business?

A: Increasing consultation with private industry before engaging in important regulatory changes.

Q: What assistance can your team provide American businesspeople living and working in Zambia?



A: Our economic staff can provide a wide range of commercial services for American businesses operating or looking to operate in Zambia. We produce an annual Country Commercial Guide, as well as an annual Investment Climate report, both available through the Embassy website:

<http://zambia.usembassy.gov/doing-business-local.html>

We can lead trade missions, conduct partner searches, coordinate in-country visits to meet with prospective buyers and partners, and advocate for American companies pursuing government tenders.

Q: Where can Americans get more information about doing business in Zambia, and where can our Zambian neighbors get more information about doing business in the United States?

A: Links to much of the information both Americans and Zambians may need to get started is provided on our Embassy website and at <http://export.gov/southafrica/doingbusinessinsub-saharanafrica/southerncentralafrica/zambia>.

American Citizen Services Corner: Voting Registration

Your vote counts! Did you know that many recent U.S. elections have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by military and overseas voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

U.S. Embassy Lusaka's Voting Assistance Officer, Brian Grandjean, encourages you to follow these few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2014 U.S. elections:

Registering to vote: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

Even if you have voted by absentee ballot in the past, you must complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to vote in the 2014 election.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. It will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature.

Receiving Your Ballot: Request Electronic

Delivery! Be sure to include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. You can now also confirm your registration and ballot delivery online for most states.

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Check out the FVAP links page for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via Facebook and Twitter.

Returning Your Completed Ballot: If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can do so free of charge at the nearest embassy or consulate. They must be in either postage-paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and must also be addressed to the relevant local election officials. U.S. citizens coming for routine consular services can submit their paper voting forms and ballots directly to the consular section during

normal ACS business hours, and they will be returned to the United States.

Or, for your convenience, you can drop your paper voting forms and ballots into the red, white, and blue U.S. Voting Drop Box located in the U.S. Embassy's main entrance (not the consular entrance), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If it's more convenient for you, you can also return your paper FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website FVAP.gov, or visit the U.S. Embassy's website:

<http://zambia.usembassy.gov/voting.html>



American Citizen Services Corner: Tax Season

TAXES? TAXES!!

Please be advised that the U.S. Embassy does not provide specific tax advice and additional information is available at: [IRS for overseas Americans](#)

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing federal taxes are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

When to File: Taxes were due April 15, though if you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic two month extension to file your return.

How to get an ITIN: If you have a family member dependent who does not have a Social Security number, you will need a Tax ID number to include them on your tax return. To obtain an ITIN number (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) you will need to submit an application.

The application form is a W-7 and supporting documents include proof of identity and a completed federal tax return. See the following website for specific instructions:

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Obtaining-an-ITIN-from-Abroad>

The U.S. Embassy can provide certified copies for any documents that you will submit to the IRS. Just make an ACS appointment. The W-7 packet should be sent to the following address:

Internal Revenue Service
ITIN Operations
P.O. Box 149342
Austin, TX 78714-9342
U.S.A.



**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**

U.S. Embassy Contact Information:

Emergency Mobile: 0966 877 805

Routine Contact Info:

ACSLusaka@state.gov

0211 357 000

American Citizen Services Corner: *Family Immigration Issues*

Green Card Holders

Please be advised that the U.S. Embassy consular section does not provide a wide range of services for Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders). If you have a family member or friend who has LPR status, they should be aware of the following:

Question: I am a green card holder and am currently living in Zambia for my job. How can I legally stay outside the United States for longer than one year without losing my status in the U.S.?

Answer: You must receive approval for a “Re-entry Permit” from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The permit allows the bearer to remain outside the United States for up to two years. The permit must be applied and obtained prior to departure from the U.S.

Question: I lost my green card and I need to travel back to the United States soon; what should I do?

Answer: If you lost your green card, or it was stolen or expired, but you have maintained your LPR status, you can make an ACS appointment at the U.S. Embassy and apply for a travel document from that allows you to return to the U.S. Once you are in the U.S. you can apply for a new green card.

Applying for a family member to immigrate to the U.S.

If you have a non-U.S. citizen family member who you would like to sponsor to immigrate to the U.S., you must file an immigrant petition with USCIS.

All petitions from Zambia now must be filed in the United States either directly with USCIS or through the mail to the USCIS lockbox in Chicago.

Once the petition is approved, it will be sent to the U.S. Embassy for an interview with a consular officer. This process can take approximately eight months to process and then possibly many years, depending on the visa type (determined by the relationship between the petitioner and the visa beneficiary in the petition)

For more information on this issue, please see the detailed FAQ on our website at <http://zambia.usembassy.gov/immigrantvisa.html>, or contact USCIS directly at www.uscis.gov.